

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-18 – cancelled.

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19. (currently amended) A method on an information processing system for automatically purchasing products ~~using a purchasing agent~~ without user interaction, the method comprising:

utilizing a user dialog to register at a plurality of auction sites to obtain a user identification and/or password;

utilizing a user dialog to enter a product purchase request;

communicating with a first and/or next auction site;

determining if said product purchase request is available, and if not, proceeding to the communicating step;

determining if a current bid from said auction site is below a limit maximum permitted, and if not, proceeding to the communicating step;

placing a bid for said product purchase request with said auction site;

determining if said bid has been accepted and if so, canceling outstanding bids at other auction sites;

if said bid has not been accepted, determining if bidding has been terminated and if so, proceeding to the communicating step;

determining if time is running out on any current outstanding bids and if so, canceling all high-cost outstanding bids and returning to the determining if said bid has been accepted; and

if time is not running out on any current outstanding bids, returning to the communicating step to inquire if there are additional auction sites in which it might be advantageous to place a bid on said product purchase request.

20. (previously presented) The method of Claim 19 wherein one or more of said method steps is implemented using a personal computer.

21. (previously presented) The method of Claim 20 wherein said product purchase

requests are generated by a manufacturing resource and/or inventory planning system to supply parts and/or materials and/or supplies for a commercial enterprise.

22. (previously presented) The method of Claim 19 wherein said product purchase requests are generated by a manufacturing resource and/or inventory planning system to supply parts and/or materials and/or supplies for a commercial enterprise.

23. (previously presented) The method of Claim 19 wherein said auction site is an Internet-based web auction site.

24. (previously presented) The method of Claim 19 wherein said placing step prioritizes bid placement to permit only lowest cost auction sites to be utilized in the bidding process.

D | 25. (currently amended) [A] An information processing system for automatically purchasing products without user interaction, using a purchasing agent, comprising:

means for utilizing a user dialog to register at a plurality of auction sites to obtain a user identification and/or password;

means for utilizing a user dialog to enter a product purchase request;

means for communicating with a first and/or next auction site;

means for determining if said product purchase request is available, and if not, proceeding to the means for communicating;

means for determining if a current bid from said auction site is below a limit maximum permitted, and if not, proceeding to the means for communicating;

means for placing a bid for said product purchase request with said auction site;

means for determining if said bid has been accepted and if so, canceling outstanding bids at other auction sites;

if said bid has not been accepted, means for determining if bidding has been terminated, and if so, proceeding to the means for communicating;

means for determining if time is running out on any current outstanding bids and if so, canceling all high-cost outstanding bids and returning to the third means for

determining; and

if time is not running out on any current outstanding bids, means for returning to the means for communicating to inquire if there are additional auction sites in which it might be advantageous to place a bid on said product purchase request.

26. (previously presented) The system of Claim 25 wherein one or more of said means is implemented utilizing a personal computer.

27. (previously presented) The system of Claim 26 wherein said product purchase requests are generated by a manufacturing resource and/or inventory planning system to supply parts and/or materials and/or supplies for a commercial enterprise.

28. (previously presented) The system of Claim 25 wherein said product purchase requests are generated by a manufacturing resource and/or inventory planning system to supply parts and/or materials and/or supplies for a commercial enterprise.

29. (previously presented) The system of Claim 25 wherein said auction site is an Internet-based web auction site.

30. (previously presented) The system of Claim 25 wherein said means for placing prioritizes bid placement to permit only lowest cost auction sites to be utilized in the bidding process.

31. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium comprising programming instructions on an information processing for automatically purchasing products using a purchasing agent without user interaction, the programming instructions including:

utilizing a user dialog to register at a plurality of auction sites to obtain a user identification and/or password;

utilizing a user dialog to enter a product purchase request;

communicating with a first and/or next auction site;

determining if said product purchase request is available, and if not, proceeding

to the communicating step;

determining if a current bid from said auction site is below a limit maximum permitted, and if not, proceeding to the communicating step;

placing a bid for said product purchase request with said auction site;

determining if said bid has been accepted and if so, canceling outstanding bids at other auction sites;

D1 If said bid has not been accepted, determining if bidding has been terminated and if so, proceeding to the communicating step;

determining if time is running out on any current outstanding bids and if so, canceling all high-cost outstanding bids and returning to the third instructions for determining; and

if time is not running out on any current outstanding bids, returning to the communicating step to inquire if there are additional auction sites in which it might be advantageous to place a bid on said product purchase request.

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